

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dryer, comprising:

a housing;

a drum rotatably installed in the housing;

a heating apparatus for supplying hot air to the drum;

a door configured to open and close an entrance formed in the housing for putting a laundry item in the drum; and

an apparatus configured to releasably engage the door and the housing, comprising;

a hook provided at one side of the door of the dryer, the hook having a hanging portion at one end;

a latch body provided on the housing in the vicinity of the entrance, wherein the hanging portion is configured to be inserted into the latch body;

a pair of holders positioned in the latch body so as to confront each other, wherein the pair of holders is configured to releasably engage and hold the hanging portion when the door is closed, and to release the hanging portion when the door is opened, and

wherein each of the pair of holders is configured to translate longitudinally within the latch body so as to engage or disengage the hanging portion;

 a pair of springs provided at a rear of the holders, respectively; and

 a pair of support members provided on the latch body, wherein each support member is configured to support a rear portion of one of the springs so that the springs remain stable as the holders move.

2. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, the latch body comprising:

 a first reception part receiving the hanging portion; and

 a pair of second reception parts provided adjacent to both sides of the first reception part to hold and guide the holders, respectively.

3. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a pair of passing holes communicating with the second reception parts are formed at both of the sides of the first reception part to let the holders pass through, respectively.

4. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a recess is formed at one end of each of the second reception parts to support an end of the corresponding spring.

5. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, wherein a protrusion is formed on one side of each of the holders and is configured to be held by an upper end of the first reception part to limit movement of the holders.

6. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hanging portion has a triangular cross-section.

7. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 6, wherein confronting planes of the holders are inclined to correspond to the triangular cross-section of the hanging portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a surface of the hanging portion to be brought into contact with the holders is rounded.

9. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 8, wherein confronting tips of the holders are rounded.

10. (Original) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a hollow portion is provided at a rear side of each of the holders to have one end of the corresponding spring inserted therein.

11. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a latch cap covering the first and second reception parts to prevent separation of the holders and the springs.

12. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein fixing protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to hold ends of the springs, respectively.

13. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein guide protrusions protrude from a bottom of the latch cap to guide movement of the holders, respectively.

14. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 11, wherein coupling holes are formed at corners of the latch cap, and wherein bolts are respectively screwed into each of the coupling holes so as to fix the latch cap to the latch body.

15. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hook is built as a single body with a fixing plate which is screw-coupled to one side of the door.

Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2007

16. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein coupling holes are formed at both sides of the latch body, and wherein bolts are respectively screwed into each of the coupling holes so as to fix the latch body to the front panel.

17. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein an insertion hole is formed in the latch body, and wherein the hanging portion is configured to be inserted into the insertion hole.

18. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the insertion hole comprises an inclined surface which is inclined inward so as to guide the hanging portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support members establish an installation location of the springs.

20. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each support member forms a receiving part for holding at least a portion of a corresponding spring.

21. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each support member prevents a corresponding spring from fluctuating and lifts the rear portion of a corresponding spring to a predetermined height.

22. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each support member matches a center of a spring to that of the corresponding holder.
23. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each support member comprises a pair of vertical ribs installed at lateral sides of a spring.
24. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each support member comprises a horizontal rib installed beneath a spring.
25. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the horizontal rib of each support member is configured to space a rear portion of a spring above a floor of the latch body.
26. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 23, wherein each support member further comprises a horizontal rib configured to space a rear portion of a spring above a floor of the latch body.
27. (Currently Amended) A dryer, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a drum rotatably installed in the housing;

a heating apparatus for supplying hot air to the drum;

a door configured to open and close an entrance formed in the housing for putting a laundry item in the drum; and

an apparatus configured to releasably engage the door and the housing, comprising;

a hook provided at one side of the door of the dryer, the hook having a hanging portion at one end;

a latch body provided on the housing in the vicinity of the entrance such that the hanging portion can be inserted into the latch body;

at least one holder provided in the latch body and configured to ~~releasably engage and hold the hanging portion when the door is closed, and to release the hanging portion when the door is opened~~, wherein the at least one holder is configured to translate longitudinally within the latch body so as to engage or disengage the hanging portion;

at least one bias member provided at a rear of the at least one holder and configured to bias the at least one holder towards a closed position; and

at least one support member provided on the latch body and configured to support a rear portion of a bias member so that the bias member remains stable as the corresponding holder moves.

28. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 27, wherein each at least one support member is configured to align a bias member with an aperture in a corresponding holder.

29. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 27, wherein each at least one support member comprises a pair of vertical ribs that are located at sides of a bias member.

30. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the vertical ribs are integrally formed with the latch body.

31. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 29, wherein each at least one support member further comprises a horizontal rib which is configured to space a bias member above a floor of the latch body.

32. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 31, wherein the vertical ribs and the horizontal rib are integrally formed on the latch body.

33. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 27, wherein the at least one holder comprises a pair of holders that confront each other and that move in opposing directions to releasably hold the hanging portion.

34. (Previously Presented) The dryer as claimed in claim 27, wherein each at least one support member comprises a horizontal rib which is configured to space a bias member above a floor of the latch body.

35. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 23, wherein the pair of vertical ribs extend from the latch body along a longitudinal direction of a respective spring so as to support an outer lateral circumferential surface of the respective spring.

36. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 24, wherein the horizontal rib extends from the latch body along a longitudinal direction of a respective spring so as to support an outer lower circumferential surface of the respective spring.

37. (New) The dryer as claimed in claim 31, wherein the pair of vertical ribs and the horizontal rib extend from the latch body along a longitudinal direction of a respective bias member such that the pair of vertical ribs support an outer lateral circumferential surface of the respective bias member, and the horizontal rib supports an outer lower circumferential surface of the respective spring.